



Michigan Supreme Court

Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANIEL WRIGHT APPOINTED SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO HIGH COURT'S CHIEF JUSTICE

LANSING, MI, December 21, 2001 – Attorney Daniel J. Wright, a specialist in appellate law and Commissioner of the Michigan Supreme Court, has been named Special Assistant to Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan, the Supreme Court announced today.

Wright succeeds former Special Assistant Margaret M. Chiara, who resigned from the Supreme Court post in October 2001 to become U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan. He has been a Commissioner of the Supreme Court since November 1989. Supreme Court Commissioners are responsible for reviewing and researching the over 2,000 cases that come before the Court each year.

“Dan is an exceptional lawyer and legal scholar,” said Chief Justice Corrigan. “This is a demanding position, and I am happy to have a person of Mr. Wright’s abilities and integrity to fill this role.”

A native of Detroit, Wright graduated in 1970 from Marquette University with a B.A. in journalism. In 1973, he received his law degree from the University of Detroit Law School, where he graduated *magna cum laude*. Mr. Wright worked as a practicing attorney from 1973 until 1989. He served six years with the State Appellate Defender Office in Detroit, representing indigent defendants in felony cases in appeals to the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, as well as in post-conviction proceedings in trial courts all over the state.

In 1981, Wright joined the law firm of Gromek, Bendure & Thomas in Detroit. He left that firm in 1988 to form the law firm of Conway & Wright, P.C., in Troy. While in private practice, Wright received an “AV” rating from the Martindale-Hubbell law directory; an “AV” rating is the highest rating conferred by that publication. His practice covered all aspects of civil litigation, with a speciality in appeals. Wright practiced before the Michigan Court of Appeals, Michigan Supreme Court, and U. S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati. He won a number of important appellate decisions, including *People v Thompson*, 409 Mich 672 (1980), (abrogation of the common law felony murder rule) and *Dziurlikowski v Morley*, 428 Mich 132 (1987) (the Supreme Court formally recognized the legal doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur*).

Wright is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and the Incorporated Society of Irish-American Lawyers. Wright, his wife Rosalie Hudnut Wright, and their two children reside in Brighton.

One of Wright’s responsibilities will be overseeing state courts’ continuing implementation of the Child Support Enforcement System (CSES). CSES is a statewide computer system required by federal law. CSES makes it possible for prosecutors and Friends of the Court across the country to track down parents who fail to pay child support. As of January 1, 2001, ten Michigan counties’ Friend of the Court offices had not converted to CSES, and the state faced millions of dollars in federal penalties. All ten counties, including Wayne County, did convert to CSES by the October 1 deadline. Michigan now awaits federal certification of the CSES system. If certified, Michigan could recoup millions of dollars in federal sanctions that the

state has already paid, in addition to avoiding future penalties. While CSES is managed by the Michigan Family Independence Agency, the system's success "is a top priority of this Court," said Chief Justice Corrigan. "Although all Michigan counties have converted to CSES, we do not regard our job as being done. We want to be satisfied that the system is working well and truly serving Michigan families."

Wright, who will work out of the high court's Lansing and Detroit offices, begins his new position Jan. 1 .
